of wide leaf trees in the said region, for environmental balance?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) No, Sir. Faulty land use, developmental activities, geo-morphological changes and loss of vegetal cover are some of the factors responsible for drying up of water sources in hilly regions.

(b) and (c) Pine forests are widely distributed in the sub-tropical zone of outer and middle Himalayas and to some extent in the inner Himalayas upto the elevation of 1800 mts. and their distribution depends upon the edaphic and climatic conditions. Creation of drier conditions due to biotic factors may lead to invasion of pines in the areas of broad-leaved species. Preference is given to the plantation of broad-leaved species according to suitability of the site. Pines are no longer a priority species in the plantation programmes undertaken in the region.

Water Treatment Plant for Puskar Sarovar

†2400. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a scheme to set up a water treatment plant for cleaning the polluted water of the famous pilgrimage place Puskar Sarovar, in Rajasthan is under consideration of Government; and

(b) if so, when this scheme would be implemented, giving the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) A scheme of National Lake Conservation Plan (NLCP) is under implementation for conservation and management of polluted lakes and ponds. The Government of Rajasthan was asked to submit a proposal for restoration of Puskar Sarovar and its inclusion under National Lake Conservation Plan. However, no proposal has been received so far from the State Government.

Simlipal, Satkosia and Sunabeda as Tiger Reserve Forests

2401. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Forests Department, Government of Orissa, has

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

sent proposals to declare Simlipal, Satkosia and Sunabeda Reserve Forests, as Tiger reserve forests; and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken by Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) Simlipal reserve forest has already been declared as a Tiger Reserve during 1973-74 Government of Orissa has submitted a proposal for inclusion of Satkosia Gorge Sanctuary as a Tiger Reserve during the Tenth Five Year Plan, and no formal proposal has been received for Sunabeda Sanctuary.

Taj Trapezium Zone Pollution Authority

†2402. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an Authority, called Taj Trapezium Zone Pollution Authority, was constituted under the Pollution Act, 1986;

(b) if so, the number of schemes implemented under the above Act, for the protection of Taj Mahal, alongwith its impact on curbing the pollution; and

(c) the amount spent on this Authority and the above schemes, during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (c) The Central Government has constituted the Taj Trapezium Zone Pollution (Prevention & Control) Authority under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. For the proper protection of Taj Mahal, schemes have been sanctioned for improvement of water supply, drainage, sewerage, solid waste management, electricity supply, parking, construction of bye-pass and improvement of Master Plan roads, plantation and setting up of ambient air monitoring stations. As a result of the implementation of various schemes, the air quality of Agra City has improved. The annual average level of Sulpur Dioxide has come down from 21 ug/m^3 in 1991 to 15 ug/m^3 in 2001, the Nitrogen Oxide level from 12 ug/m^3 in 1991 to 10 ug/m^3 in 2001 and the SPM level has

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